

# Moving Into Your Residence Hall? Do it Sustainably!

## Hello, incoming freshmen and transfer students!

We student interns at the College of Charleston Office of Sustainability and Sustainability Literacy Institute bet we know what your last couple of weeks before your move to Charleston have been like.



Your parents are urging you to get every food, cleaning, and school supply in the universe. You're trying to decide if you need to bring your winter clothes and hoping your randomly-assigned roommate won't be obnoxious.

You're prepping your dog for your absence, hanging out with your high school buddies, and scanning College of Charleston Social Media daily for new potential friends. You're hoarding posters and other room-decorating materials with a half-imagined plan of how you're going to make your room the COOLEST ROOM COLLEGE HAS EVER SEEN.



**You've got a lot on your mind** – but are you thinking about the waste your move will generate? Probably not. Here are some tips on how to cut down on waste from some folks who have done it all before.



COLLEGE of  
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INSTITUTE

ZERO WASTE

1.

Look online at [reslife.cofc.edu](http://reslife.cofc.edu) to determine if there are common areas, private bathrooms and kitchen appliances in your residence hall. You can also look at the dimensions of existing furniture. Don't plan on bringing your entire room from home with you.



2.

Get in touch with your new roommates ahead of time, and coordinate with them on who's bringing what – you can share items like rugs, televisions, and cleaning supplies. Also, you don't have to bring everything in advance! A trip to the nearest thrift or consignment store could be fun and will help you get to know each other better.

Closet Case Thrift is located in North Charleston, and their store benefits local non-profit We Are Family. You can also request to join Buy Nothing Charleston, a Facebook Group that encourages folks to rely on their community for needed items before purchasing them new.



3.

Plastic garbage bags, tear, and wreak havoc on the environment. Cardboard boxes can be stacked on a dolly and can be recycled or flattened and stored to be used when you move again!



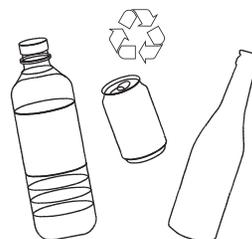
4.

Things are going to get lost, broken, beat up, and vomited on, so buy your appliances second-hand! Use up the school supplies you already have before going out and buying ANOTHER round of notebooks for each class that will each only be used a third of the way through.



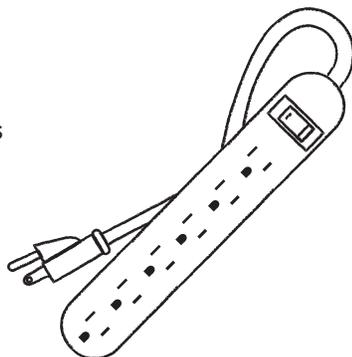
5.

Ask move-in volunteers where to properly dispose of waste and recycling. Charleston County recycles glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, plastic bottles and containers, office paper, paper-board and cardboard. Some tips: keep the lids on bottles and don't crush cans! Please do not place plastic bags or any other plastic film in the recycling bins. Also, don't recycle shredded paper! For any questions, feel free to contact Zero Waste at [ZeroWaste@cofc.edu](mailto:ZeroWaste@cofc.edu).



6.

Get a power strip with a surge protector. It will be your best friend, because now you'll have enough plug space for all of your electrical devices. It will be the environment's best friend, too, because it makes it very convenient for you to turn the power supply to all your devices off at the same time. Google "phantom loads" if you've never heard of them. Electrical appliances are greedy energy guzzlers when they're plugged in, not just when they're turned on.



7.

You know what really makes a residence hall feel less like a soothing home environment? Fruit flies. Don't rely on disposable plates and cups that will make your trash stinky; bring a reusable set of dishes. This doesn't mean you need 10 pounds of silverware and place settings to serve twenty. Believe us, a few reusable sets of dishes are the way to go if you want your kitchen area to look and smell clean with a minimal amount of cleaning effort.

